## United States Embassy Skopje Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Continuing Demonstrations May 12, 2015

U.S. Embassy Skopje informs U.S. citizens that at 18:00 on May 12, 2015, activists will march against police brutality in connection with the Martin Neskovski case (for additional details, refer to <a href="May 8, 2015">May 8, 2015</a> security message). The group will start at the Government Building and move to Parliament.

At 19:00 on May 12, 2015, a separate group will march to show support to police for their actions in Kumanovo (for additional details, refer to May 9, 2015 security message). This group will gather several blocks south of Parliament and move to the police station Prolet.

There is the potential for continued demonstrations organized by political groups in Macedonia. Further demonstrations may form with little or no notice. U.S. citizens should follow local media for up to date information on demonstrations and potential disruptions of traffic.

Previous similar demonstrations in Skopje took place in front of the Government and Parliament buildings. The protests may block key road intersections and/or disrupt public transportation. Demonstrations have also occurred in other cities in Macedonia.

U.S. citizens should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are advised to respect local laws, pay close attention to developments and potential traffic disruptions through local media, and plan alternate routes should you find your original plans affected.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Macedonia enroll in the Department of State's <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (STEP). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you do not have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the <u>State Department's website</u>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Macedonia. For additional information, refer to the "<u>Traveler's Checklist</u>" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to have travel information at your fingertips.

<u>The U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia</u> is located at Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. tel: (02) 310-2000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, **the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is (389) 2-310-2000.**